

To the Editorial Staff of Physical Review Letters,

please find enclosed a new version of our manuscript LL12118 / Alekseev, which has been shortened in order to meet the length criteria of Physical Review Letters. We shortened the paper by 6 manuscript lines, corresponding to 9 PRL lines according to our estimate. No major changes were required at this stage. Below we summarize the deletions and changes made (the page and line numbers refer to the originally accepted version of the manuscript).

1. Page 2, line 5: The phrase "detected in the spectrometer" was removed.
2. Page 2, line 12: The phrase "momentum transfers" was removed.
3. Page 3, line 3 ff.: The sentence "For the $\pi^-\pi^-\pi^+$ final state, the excited state is thus assumed to disintegrate into a di-pion resonance and an unpaired (bachelor) pion, followed by the decay of the resonance into two pions."
4. Page 4, line 6: "wave" was changed to "waves".
5. Page 4, line 15 f.: "is taken as new result for the corresponding mass bin" was replaced by "is used".
6. Page 4, line 39 f.: "is evident from the corresponding phase differences" was replaced by "is evident from its phase differences".
7. Page 6, line 5 ff.: The sentence "However, comparing different $\pi_1(1600)$ decay channels observed at 18 GeV/c, a common parity transfer characteristics is not evident though mandatory for a single resonance at given bombarding energy." was removed.
8. Page 7, line 31: "lead" was replaced by "Pb".